



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

November 8, 2012

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. T. Fujioka", is written over the printed name and title.

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

## **AUTOMATIC AID AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER AGENCIES (ITEM 23-A, AGENDA OF OCTOBER 23, 2012)**

On October 23, 2012, your Board adopted a motion directing the Chief Executive Officer to report back on the communication system between emergency and fire agencies in the various jurisdictions within Los Angeles County (County) involved in the mutual aid program.

This memorandum is in response to the aforementioned motion and will focus on automatic aid as opposed to mutual aid agreements. The former is the type of agreement that the Fire Department (Department) enters into with other cities within the County over the allocation of resources in specific areas when there is an emergency incident, while the latter is usually initiated by the State for larger-scale emergency incidents.

The Department currently has automatic aid agreements in place with the City of Los Angeles and 33 other cities throughout the County to provide a quick and efficient response in the event of a fire or emergency medical services (EMS) incident. Information regarding the area of coverage under a particular automatic aid agreement is entered into a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. When there is a fire or EMS incident in an area covered under an agreement, CAD identifies the appropriate unit to be requested. The dispatcher then calls the corresponding dispatch center via a ring down line and requests the unit be dispatched. If the unit is unavailable to respond, the dispatcher may then request that an alternate unit be sent, provided the alternate unit being requested is identified in CAD as closer than an alternate County unit. The two dispatch centers will work together using CAD recommendations to identify and send

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the closest available unit for that incident. There will be a delay in response anytime the jurisdictional unit is not available and an alternate unit (usually further away) is sent in its place.

The Department is investigating the feasibility of updating the technology surrounding its communication with the dispatch centers. At this time, the use of a ring down line remains the most effective and reliable method of communicating the necessary information during an emergency incident.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Georgia Mattera, Public Safety, at (213) 893-2374.

WTF:GAM:SW  
DC:cc

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Fire

Fire.Automatic Aid.Item23A.102312.bm.110812